

Message Text

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46

ACTION H-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /003 W

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P 071358Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7558

UNCLAS MBABANE 0231

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (DIGGS, CHARLES C.)

SUBJECT: CODEL DIGGS

FOR "H"

PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM CODEL DIGGS TO
MS. JOAN WILLOUGHBY, OFFICE OF REP. CHARLES DIGGS, JR.,
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WASH., D.C. 20515.

QUOTE

PLEASE PASS THIS CABLE TO EACH OF THE FOLLOWING IN BOTH
THEIR WASHINGTON AND LOCAL OFFICES:

SENATOR HUMPHERY (ATTN.: MARIANNE ABLERTSON IN WASHINGTON OFFICE)

SENATOR GALE MCGEE (ATTN.: DICK MCCALL IN WASHINGTON OFFICE)

SENATOR JACOB JAVITS

SENATOR EDWARD BROOKE

SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY (ATTN.: BOB BATES IN WASHINGTON
OFFICE)

REP. CHARLES RANGEL
(ATTN.: GEORGE DALLEY IN WASHINGTON OFFICE)

REP. MICHAEL HARRINGTON
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THE IMMINENT APPOINTMENT OF AN AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE
TO SOUTH AFRICA -- THE PRESENT AMBASSADOR IS NEARING THE
END OF HIS ASSIGNMENT THERE -- HAS SURFACED.

HOPE THAT YOU WILL TAKE AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN THIS
MATTER, URGING THAT THE CONFIRMATION OF ANY NEW AMBASSADOR
BE DELAYED UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT
TAKES SERIOUS STEPS TOWARD MAJORITY RULE IN THAT COUNTRY.
IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT, AS A FOLLOW-UP TO OUR STATEMENTS
ABHORRING APARTHEID BEFORE THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL, THE
U.S. GOVERNMENT, AS ONE OF A SERIES OF STEPS, CLEARLY
INDICATE IT WILL NO LONGER TOLERATE SUCH MINORITY RULE
BY REDUCING THE LEVEL OF OUR REPRESENTATION. THE SCHEDULED
INDEPENDENCE OF MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA, AND THE PROSPECTS
OF MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA, MAKE IT EVEN MORE IMPORTANT
THAT THE U.S. TAKE A STRONG STANCE IN SUPPORT OF THE MAJORITY
IN SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA.

MERE PRONOUNCEMENTS BY OUR GOVERNMENT ARE CLEARLY NOT
SUFFICIENT AND DELAYING CONFIRMATION IS ONE OF A NUMBER OF
SIGNALS THAT THE U.S. SHOULD SEND TO SOUTH AFRICA.

SOUTH AFRICAN ATTEMPTS TO PROVE THAT CHANGE IS
OCCURRING IN THAT COUNTRY ARE DELIBERATELY MISLEADING AND
INCORRECT. THE INTEGRATION OF A FEW PUBLIC PARKS AND
RESTAURANTS HAS DONE NOTHING TO MOVE THE AFRICAN MAJORITY
ONE STEP CLOSER TOWARDS PARTICIPATION IN THE POLITICAL
SYSTEM.

INSTEAD, SOUTH AFRICAN REPRESSION OF THE MAJORITY
HAS CONTINUED AND, INDEED, INCREASED. THE DETENTION
WITHOUT TRIAL, HARASSMENT, AND TORTURE OF BLACK DISSIDENTS
(MOST RECENTLY THE LEADERSHIP OF THE BLACK POLITICAL
CONVENTION JR SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS ORGANIZATION)
CONTINUE. ARRESTS FOR PASS-LAW VIOLATIONS CONTINUE TO
INCLUDE MORE THAN ONE-HALF-MILLION PERSONS ANNUALLY.
ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION OF THE MAJORITY WHO ARE EFFECTIVELY
RESTRICTED TO 12 PERCENT OF THE POOREST LAND CONTINUES.
AND, PRIME MINISTER VORSTER HIMSELF HAS RECENTLY
STATED THAT ONE-MAN, ONE-VOTE IN SOUTH AFRICA WILL NEVER
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COME.

FURTHERMORE, SOUTH AFRICA CONTINUES TO HAVE A VISA
POLICY WHICH IS ARBITRARY AND DISCRIMINATORY, AS WITNESSED
BY SAG'S RECENT REFUSAL TO GRANT ME A VISA OR EVEN TO ALLOW
ME THE NORMAL COURTESIES USUALLY AFFORDED TRANSIT
VISITORS THOROUGH JAN SMUTS AIRPORT.

FOR ALL OF THESE REASONS, I URGE YOUR ACTIVE INVOLVE-
MENT IN SUPPORT OF DELAYING THE SENDING OF ANY NEW
AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO SOUTH AFRICA UNTIL SAG TAKES
CONCRETE STEPS LEADING TO THE PARTICIPATION OF THE MAJORITY
IN THAT COUNTRY'S POLITICAL SYSTEM. SUCH ACTION IS THE
ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO A VIOLENT UPHEAVAL IN SOUTH AFRICA,
SINCE ALL AVENUES OF POLITICAL PARTICIPATION ARE CLOSED
TO THE AFRICAN MAJORITY.

CHARLES C. DIGGS. UNQUOTE
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MBABAN00231
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750045-0825
From: MBABANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750263/aaaacegl.tel
Line Count: 126
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 SEP 2003 by RowellE0>; APPROVED <31 DEC 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL DIGGS FOR "H"
TAGS: OREP, (DIGGS, CHARLES C)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006